

Return to Use Initiative

2004 Demonstration Project

Ross Metals: Rossville, Tennessee

THE SITE: From 1979 to 1992, Ross Metals Inc. operated a secondary lead smelter on the 15-acre Ross Metals site in Rossville, Tennessee. Approximately 80 percent of the raw material processed in the smelter came from automotive and industrial lead-acid batteries. The remaining 20 percent of material consisted of lead plates, lead oxide, scrap metal, and various business and industry lead waste. The smelting process resulted in lead contamination in slag, surface soil, and ground water. Remedial construction at the site was completed in 2004.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Rossville, Tennessee is a growing suburb of Memphis; with the community on the rise, interest in parks and recreational areas is growing. Access to the site is convenient for local residents.

THE BARRIER: Because of its relatively rural location, the site had not historically presented itself as a recreational opportunity for the rapidly-growing area. Currently, the property is encumbered with Superfund liens for past cleanup costs. Outstanding back taxes on the property are also creating barriers to reuse.

THE SOLUTION: City of Rossville officials and Fayette County officials will continue to work together to remove barriers to reuse and get the property back on the tax rolls.

FUTURE REUSE: EPA has confirmed the site's suitability for recreational uses and the town of Rossville is aware that the site can provide space for recreational activities, should local officials and residents decide that such a municipal amenity is needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Beth Walden at (404) 562-8814 or walden.beth@epa.gov.



Barriers:

Uncertainty about appropriate future uses of the site;
outstanding back taxes that are unresolved

Solution:

Dialogue with community members and the City and County governments to answer questions about the site and to resolve lien and tax problems



Before:

Cleaned-up manufacturing plant; 15 acres of flat, vacant land appropriate for recreational use

After:

Potential park and recreational area for local residents